



## The Return of Sherlock Holmes

### Adventure XXXVII – The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez

1. Is the Smith-Mortimer case related to the secretary, the gardener, or both?
2. Would ecologists equate London to molehills?
3. Why didn't Holmes answer the door himself?
4. Do we learn from this story that Holmes and Watson are not virtuous?
5. What goes well with hot water and a lemon?
6. Why was the household so self-contained?
7. Does the diagram provide for a front bedroom immediately above the study?
8. Why a knife for sealing wax?
9. Did Hopkins examine the path by daylight?
10. What lies between the path and the road?
11. Was Hopkins a poor student or was Holmes a poor teacher?
12. Why did it take from 2 to 3 hours for a morning journey and less than 2 hours for an afternoon trip from Charing Cross to Yoxley Old Place?
13. Did Holmes ever invite any other late visitors to spend the night?
14. Was the weather appropriate for garden loitering?
15. Was the wound in a peculiar location?
16. Why, with the rain, would Smith go for a walk in the mire?



17. Why dust and cobwebs after 24 hours?
18. How might Anna have located Professor Coram?
19. Couldn't Anna have used blackmail more readily than theft?
20. Why does Watson choose this case to tell rather than some of the others he mentions? How busy do you imagine Holmes to have been in 1894, and why should Watson refer to "our" work?
21. How does Doyle contrast the urban and the rural; civilized London with the world of nature?
22. How does the weather influence the direction the story takes, both in setting the mood and in making the physical clues difficult to read?
23. How does Holmes use a "spirit lamp" in this story? Would you imagine this to have been a commonly used device? Why?
24. Comment on the extensive use of tobacco in this story.
25. Do you think the clues to the solution are fairly presented?

**Ralph Edwards, BSI**

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